

## Message Text

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TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY PRIORITY

ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS

UNCLAS STATE 109499 TOSEC 110735

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SF, US (FORD, PRESIDENT GERALD)

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT RESPONDS TO QUERIES ON SOUTHERN AFRICA -  
BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

1. FOLLOWING IS WHITE HOUSE TRANSCRIPT OF RELEVANT PORTIONS  
OF PRESIDENT FORD INTERVIEW APRIL 30 IN LUBBOCK, TEXAS:  
(BEGIN TEXT)

2. QUESTION: MR. KISSINGER HAS BEEN GOING OVER AFRICA  
SAYING THAT U. S. WILL USE ECONOMIC AID TO HELP BLACK  
NATIONALISTS GAIN WHAT HE REFERS TO AS 'MAJORITY RULE' IN  
SOUTHERN AFRICA. WHY WOULD THIS NATION TAKE THIS STANCE  
WITHOUT PUTTING IT INTO SOME SORT OF TIME-FRAME, AND WHY  
WOULDN'T THEY TAKE THIS STANCE WITHOUT NO APPARENT OR OPEN  
CONSULTATION WITH EITHER RHODESIA AND SPECIFICALLY SOUTH  
AFRICA?

3. THE PRESIDENT: LET ME PUT TOTAL PROGRAM IN CONTEXT.  
THIS NATION, JAY, WELL FROM OUR VERY BEGINNING, HAS BELIEVED  
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IN SELF-DETERMINATION. THAT IS HOW WE BECAME NATION.

NUMBER TWO, THIS COUNTRY HAS TRADITIONALLY BELIEVED THAT UNDER ANY AND ALL CIRCUMSTANCES WE SHOULD PROTECT MINORITY RIGHTS OR GUARANTEE MINORITY RIGHTS. AND SECONDLY -- OR THIRDLY -- THIS COUNTRY IS TRYING TO MAKE CERTAIN AND POSITIVE THAT NO NATION FROM OUTSIDE, WHETHER IT IS SOVIET

UNION OR ANY OTHER NATION, DOMINATE BY MILITARY OR ECONOMIC FORCE AFRICA AS CONTINENT. NOW, AS LONG AS WE SEEK TO GUARANTEE MINORITY RIGHTS OF INDIVIDUALS IN RHODESIA, AS LONG AS WE ARE CERTAIN THAT THERE WILL NOT BE MILITARY AGGRESSION AGAINST RHODESIA, I THINK WE CAN FIND WAY TO HAVE POLICY OF SELF-DETERMINATION FOR RHODESIA WITHOUT BLOODSHED.

4. QUESTION: CAN I PURSUE THAT?

5. THE PRESIDENT: SURELY.

6. QUESTION: I SPENT ABOUT MONTH IN SOUTH AFRICA LAST YEAR AND TALKED TO THEIR LEADERS. THEY HAVE OFFERED UNITED STATES BASES IN SIMONSTOWN AND ON INDIAN OCEAN. AND IN VIEW OF SOVIET BUILDUP IN INDIAN OCEAN AND NECESSITY FOR US GETTING OUR MIDEAST OIL AROUND SOUTH AFRICA, WHY IS IT UNITED STATES HAS NEVER USED SOUTH AFRICAN BASES?

7. THE PRESIDENT: WELL, OUR FIRST STEP, AS YOU KNOW, JAY, IS TO TRY AND GET CONGRESS TO APPROVE UNITED STATES BUILDING BASE IN DIEGO GARCIA, WHICH IS IN MUCH MORE MILITARILY ADVANTAGEOUS POINT FOR UNITED STATES THAN ONE OF THOSE BASES OR ISLANDS THAT YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT DOWN IN TIP OF SOUTH AFRICA. I THINK WE OUGHT TO DO FIRST THINGS FIRST. IF WE COULD GET DIEGO GARCIA, WHICH IS IN MIDDLE OF INDIAN OCEAN, AS YOU KNOW, THEN WE COULD TAKE LOOK AT THESE SOUTH AFRICAN BASES THAT YOU MENTION. BUT FIRST THINGS HAVE TO COME FIRST, AND WE ARE HAVING HARD ENOUGH TIME, JAY, GETTING CONGRESS TO GO ALONG WITH THAT. (END TEXT) SISCO

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